

Mar 8

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LUNCHEON MARCH 16, 1949 12:30 P. M.

HOTEL SHERRY NETHERLANDS, 59th STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

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The President of Twentieth Century Fox Corporation has returned from a trip to the Middle East and Europe. He accompanied the new Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church to Istanbul in a private plane provided by President Truman for his installation and then went to Greece where he interviewed Greek government officials and members of the ECA Mission. Before returning, he toured the fronts of guerrilla warfare in northern Greece.

SPYROS SKOURAS

Mr. Skouras completed his trip by visiting Rome, Paris and London to complete his survey of conditions in Europe, and will talk to the Overseas Press Club members about his conclusions.

MIKE STERN, the European Correspondent for Fawcett Publications, has just returned from Rome, Italy, for a short leave, and will give us the latest news on Rome and the Mediterranean goings-on.

YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED YOUR INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES PREMIERE OF THE NEW J. ARTHUR RANK PRODUCTION, "QUARTET", WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THE CLUB BY W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM WHEN HE SPOKE TO US LAST MONTH. THE PREMIERE WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 28th, AT THE SUTTON THEATRE, 57th ST., between Second and Third Avenues.

WE WILL HAVE THE ENTIRE THEATRE AND THE FILM WILL BE INTRODUCED BY J. ARTHUR RANK IN PERSON AT 8:15 P.M. SEND IN YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BLACK OR WHITE TIE. PERSONALITIES OF THE ENGLISH AND AMERICAN THEATRE WILL ATTEND THIS OPENING. MORE IN NEXT BULLETIN. THE FILM IS ONE OF THE BEST TO BE PRODUCED BY THE BRITISH THIS YEAR.

The Tenth Anniversary Dinner of the Overseas Press Club proved to be the best Annual Dinner which was ever held, according to OPC members, their guests and newsmen who covered the affair. Stories and pictures were on the first pages of the newspapers and the dinner was covered by all the newsreels and the NBC and CBS television units. "The Voice of America" broadcast the entire affair and Station WRUL, the World Wide Broadcasting Company and the Armed Forces Radio network also covered the dinner and all the speeches.

The actual attendance was almost one thousand members and guests, even though several papers reported two thousand being present. The program was divided into three distinct parts -- the first of the three speakers listed in the invitation; the second of the awards and the third of the speeches around General Marshall.

Jessica Dragonette, lyric soprano, sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and later sang "Buttons and Bows", a favorite of General Marshall. Another favorite of the General is reported to be "Rock of Ages" but the Committee decided that that song would not be appropriate for our particular gathering. Following the reception in the East Foyer, for which Leo Dryer and his orchestra played, the dinner began about 8:10 P.M. The first course was lobster and crabmeat Louis. Mrs. W. W. Chaplin, who was hostess for a front table of distinguished guests, saw Mrs. Marshall, General Carter and Mrs. Marshall's son and son-in-law, Mr. Clifton Brown and Mr. Edmund Coles, searching through the salad. When asked what they were looking for, they said "Shrimp". No shrimp was found and so they signaled the General that he could go ahead and eat it-- Marshall is allergic to shrimp.

The dinner was served in record time by the Waldorf under the direction of C. C. Philippe so that the petite marmite, the roast beef and the brandied cherries Jubilee were all cleared away by 9:25 P.M. Camel cigarettes were on all the tables and three very pretty girls distributed sample boxes of Loft candies to the guests. The flowers on the dais were donated by Charles Pappas, of the Metropolitan Florists Association.

Seated at the head table on the first tier were, reading from left to right: William F. Brooks; John Foster Dulles; Homer Bigart; Jessica Dragonette; Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.; Ambassador Wilhelm Munthe de Morgenstierne; Edwin L. James; General George C. Marshall; W. W. Chaplin; Dean Acheson; Elmer Davis; Major General Frederick Osborn; Daniel Longwell; Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer; James E. Reston; Paul G. Hoffman and Bernard Baruch.

On the second tier, from left to right, were Louis Lochner; Robert Considine; Fritz Kreisler; Robert P. Patterson; Lloyd Stratton; Lt. General George Stratemeyer; Ambassador from Italy Alberto Tarchiani; Wythe Williams; Admiral Thomas Kinkaid; Robert A. Lovett; Davidson Taylor; Hester E. Hensell; Senator Warren R. Austin; Egbert White and Ralph Jules Frantz.

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Major General Frederick Osborn, U. S. Delegate to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, was the first speaker and praised the work of General Marshall. Ambassador Morgenstierne, the second speaker, was acclaimed as he came to the rostrum when the thousand guests at the banquet stood up in tribute to the courageous stand of Norway.

"We are almost allies once again" said Mr. Morgenstierne. "Only an aggressor has anything to fear from the Atlantic Pact. All that Norway wants is to be absolutely certain that through solidarity we can hold the frontiers of freedom, law and democracy." He continued, "We do not feel that neutrality has any relation to the realities of today."

The programs had been illustrated by Aloys Derso, famous cartoonist, and proved to be the subject of much enjoyment during the evening. Mr. Derso presented General Marshall with the original of the drawings, which portrayed most of the people at the head tables. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., Republican from Massachusetts, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, stated that "he was completely convinced that the outbreak of aggression and violence and war in Europe will not, cannot and must not find America sitting idly by and doing nothing." Senator Lodge, in honoring General Marshall, said that "the crises during the past decade had been recognized first by Marshall, had been met first by him and solved first by him."

OPC AWARDS FOR 1948 were presented by W. W. Chaplin, President of the OPC. In the first five categories, they consisted of engraved Hamilton wrist watches in gold with alligator bands and hand engraved sheepskins.

For the best reporting in the press of foreign affairs from abroad: Harold Callender of the New York Times, Paris Bureau. In Mr. Callender's absence, the award was accepted for him by Edwin L. James, managing editor of the Times, who made one of the most amusing speeches of the evening with his caustic statements and ready wit.

For the best reporting by radio of foreign news from abroad: Henry Cassidy, Paris Bureau of the National Broadcasting Company. Mr. Cassidy was "piped" in from London for an acceptance speech of the award which was accepted for him by vice president in charge of news of NBC, Bill Brooks.

For the best interpretation of foreign news in the press: James E. Reston, New York Times Bureau in Washington. "Scotty" as he is known to his friends, accepted the award with a few short words of thanks.

For the best interpretation of foreign news by radio: Elmer Davis of the American Broadcasting Company, who came up from Washington to accept the award and make a short acceptance speech.

For the best reporting of foreign news by a photographer (given for the first time this year): Jack Birns of Life Magazine, who is now in Burma covering the revolution there. Mr. Daniel Longwell, chairman of the Board of Editors of Life, accepted the award for Birns.

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The George Polk Memorial Award, (also given for the first time) for the display of courage "over and beyond the call of duty" in gathering the news abroad, went to Homer Bigart of the New York Herald Tribune. We understand that Homer, having arrived a few days before from Europe, "sans smoking" had to buy a tuxedo for the affair so Bill Chaplin told him that the \$500 check which constituted the Award, would partly reimburse him for this expense. A hand lettered sheepskin was also given to Mr. Bigart. Mr. Chaplin thanked Davidson Taylor, CBS vice-president, for the check which was given to Bigart.

Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, acting chief of staff of the U.S. Army, had flown up in a private plane from Washington with Wallace Graham, the President's physician, General Grow and John Alison, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, all guests of DR. CORTEZ ENLOE, member of the Dinner Committee. Gen. Wedemeyer had words of warm praise for General Marshall and related several amusing incidents about him.

Dean Acheson, Secretary of State, in referring to the news which had broken at 5 P.M. the night of the banquet on the removal of Molotoff, who was succeeded by Vishinsky, said that "he was wondering how Mr. Vishinsky feels about this situation". In an extremely witty and thoughtful speech, Dean Acheson, said that it took more courage than one man can summon to succeed General Marshall as Secretary of State. He said that when he went to work for Mr. Marshall in the State Department, the General said that he had "no feelings about anything -- except a few which he reserved for Mrs. Marshall."

General Marshall, when presented with a beautiful Golden Royal typewriter by Chaplin, said "that he might need a gold plated kidney rather than a gold plated typewriter". General Marshall in a twenty minute speech said that "The European Recovery Program had made more progress in the last five months toward cementing peace among nations than in the previous five hundred years". The fighting spirit of our former Secretary of State and Chief of Staff was as evident as it was when he spoke to the Overseas Press Club from the same platform right after the Battle of the Bulge and reassured everyone that we had the conflict well in hand.

Mrs. Marshall was introduced to the audience who paid tribute to her by a standing acclaim. Time did not permit the Chairman to call on the other close colleagues of General Marshall, who were seated at the head table. A distinguished list of guests were seated everywhere in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf which was brimful. The general feeling of camaraderie was prevalent during the entire evening and members present complimented Louis Lochner and the Dinner Committee on a superb job of planning and execution.

Our thanks go to Robert Waddell, president of the Hamilton Watch Company, who gave the five award watches and to the Royal Typewriter Company who contributed the typewriter for Marshall. National Distillers provided Mount Vernon whiskey for the reception for distinguished guests and Frankfurt Distillers provided a case of Four Roses for the party held in the OPC suite after the dinner.

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: MEETING OF THE DINNER COMMITTEE .. MONDAY, MARCH 14th AT 6:30 P. M. :
: MEETING OF THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE, TUESDAY, MARCH 15th AT 5:30 P.M. :

WILL WHOEVER HAS TAKEN THE BOOK "NAKED AND THE DEAD" BY NORMAN MAILER, PLEASE RETURN IT TO THE CLUB LIBRARY???? THERE IS A WAITING LIST OF MEMBERS WHO WANT TO BORROW IT FROM THE OPC LIBRARY.

The following applications have been received in the Club Office. Please send in your complaints, suggestions or recommendations to the Admissions Committee; Craig Thompson, chairman:

ACTIVE:

PAUL ELLIOT SMITH, formerly Psychological Warfare Branch in Algiers from May, 1943 to Oct. 1944; Rome from Nov. 1944 to June, 1945; Trieste from July 1945 to Nov. 1945.

STEPHEN WHITE, N.Y. Herald Tribune Office in Paris, France. Pacific, 1946; France, Germany, England, Switzerland, Greece and Pacific areas from 1946 to present, all for the New York Herald Tribune.

The Library Committee sponsored the first of a series of cocktail parties in the club rooms for our member-authors last Monday, March 7th from 5 to 7 P.M. for BOB MAGIDOFF'S new book "In Anger and Pity", published by Doubleday and Co. The next one will be held for Leland Stowe in April. Among those present were: John Hersey; Abe Schechter; Nat Bienstock; MAURICE HINDUS; Mrs. Leland Stowe; Ken McCormick of Doubleday; JOSEPH B. PHILLIPS, CRAIG THOMPSON, etc.

CHARLEY WHITE of the Muncie Star will be in New York from March 19th until broke, and will be found at the Hotel Earle. He asks friends, MOORA, ROONEY, PRICE, KILEY, etc. to come in peace as the little woman will be with him. WHITE reports that PRICE and MOORA have presented the world with future journalists. He hopes to see Tom (Bell Bottom) Bernard of the American magazine around. "I've certainly enjoyed the Bulletin, for which Mr. Pulitzer ought to give you at least honorable mention", writes WHITE.

AVAILABLE ---- Three room duplex garden apartment in Hartsdale for six months sublet with furniture for \$135 per month or lease plus furniture valued at \$3,000. Immediate occupancy. Call the office for details or CRONE at Longacre 5-4649.

JACK THOMPSON of the Chicago Tribune, who is President of the Old Normandy Beach-head Correspondents Association, writes that BEN WRIGHT of American Airlines who ran the 9th Air force Gangway Press Camp is going to fly a group of the original D-Day correspondents back to Normandy for the fifth anniversary this June. Jack says that when we see his fat friend, HAL BOYLE, to tell him that he is counting on him to go. Only 25 will be able to take this ten-day trip.

If members would like copies of the program, call the Secretary, who will send them along.

Hester E. Hensell,
Editor

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